U. S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE-Public Health Service

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BOARD OF REGENTS

The Board of Regents of the National Library of Medicine met in Washington on November 5, 1960, with ten of its members present. Dr. William B. Bean presided as Chairman; Drs. Hussey, Stecher, and Valk were welcomed as new members of the group. Dr. Arnold B. Kurlander, Assistant Surgeon General of the Public Health Service, and Dr. David E. Price, Deputy Director of the National Institutes of Health, were present as observers.

The Board heard a report by Dr. Rogers which summarized the status of the Library and its programs. Mr. Scott Adams, the Library's Deputy Director, presented a proposal for extramural programs, and the Board considered some preliminary plans for dedication ceremonies for the new building.

NEW STAFF MEMBER FOR NLM

Joseph Hyram Roe, Jr., M. D., a Reserve Officer in the Commissioned Corps of the Public Health Service, will be called to active duty next summer for assignment to the National Library of Medicine.

Dr. Roe matriculated at Yale University in 1945, served as an infantryman in Korea in 1946-47 and received his bachelor's degree from Yale in 1950. A year later he received a master's degree in biochemistry from the George Washington University, and in 1956 the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine awarded him the M. D. At present he is in his third and final year of residency training in pathology at the George Washington University Hospital.

MANAGEMENT IMPROVEMENT

The Technical Services Division renewed NLM's foreign periodical subscriptions during November. This is an annual process which has always involved the preparation of long lists of periodical titles which had to be retyped each year because of minor variations, e.g.,changed and ceased titles.

A simple procedural change has eliminated this annual typing chore. Titles were typed on individual cards which were later shingled to boards. The boards were then reproduced as lists on the xerox equipment recently installed in the Index Division. This innovation provides a master file of titles in card form for use in the future. Since only a few additions and changes are necessary each year, this procedure eliminates a crucial bottleneck in the annual subscription renewal process.

HIGH ROOF CONSTRUCTION

The most unusual feature in the architectural design of NLM's new building is the high roof, a thin (3") concrete shell in hyperbolic paraboloid form, spanning an area 63 ft. square within its four supporting columns, with a perimeter measuring 97½ feet square. At its center the roof is ten feet higher than its low points, which occur at the points of support. The shape is created by a simple arrangement of straight form boards, which nevertheless give the effect of a warped surface over the full area of the roof. Scaffolding to support the form work is now in place; pouring of the concrete will commence by mid-December. After hardening, the shell will be post-stressed by applying a thrust load at the points of support, using for this purpose four 150-ton hydraulic jacks. The jacking operation will lift the shell off the form, and the shell will be welded into place on the supporting columns after the full post-stress load has been applied.

CROSSROADS

In the past few months the National Library of Medicine has been host to four long-term visitors:

Miss Luwarsih Pringgoadisurjo, Associate Editor of Indonesian Science Abstracts, spent two months (September-October) in NLM's Index Division. Having visited NLM briefly last spring, Miss Pringgoadisurjo arranged for a return visit upon completion of a course at Peabody Library School.

Dr. Clarissa A. de Derka, Medical Librarian of the Trust Territory of Papua and New Guinea, arrived from Port Moresby October 17 to spend six months at NLM. She visited other Washington libraries and worked in a hospital and a medical school library for a month before beginning regular assignments at NLM.

Mr. Philip Wade, Librarian of the Royal Society of Medicine in London, spent two weeks, October 22-November 4, at NLM. He studied the plans for NLM's new building and inspected the site, besides visiting other libraries in the Washington and Baltimore areas.

Miss Uthai Dhutiyabhodhi from Thailand, recipient of an MLA Traveling Fellowship, arrived on November 21 for two months' experience in the Technical Services Division. Miss Dhutiyabhodhi had visited NLM briefly several years ago on her first trip to the United States under MLA auspices.

FINNISH ULS

Seppälä, Arvo. Lääketieteelliset aikakauslehdet ja sarjat Suomen kirjastoissa; yhteisluettelo ulkomaisista julkaisuista. Helsinki, 1960. 355 p.

The English title, "Medical periodicals and serials in the libraries of Finland; union list of foreign publications," indicates fairly well the scope and purpose of this new product of the University of Helsinki. Only the serials held in runs of the present century are included, but the earlier holdings of these titles are shown. There are about 3,500 titles in the list.

LC SCORES A SCOOP

The Library of Congress Information Bulletin for November 14, 1960, announced receipt of Supplement 2 of the Library News of the World Health Organization (vol. 13, 1960), issued under the title Public Health and Medicine in the USSR: An Introductory Guide to Reference Sources. This 130-page work is said to list 260 items -- periodicals, abstract journals, bibliographies, dictionaries, and so forth. We are chagrined to confess that at press time this publication still had not arrived at NLM; our communications with Geneva seem to be gummed up.

STATISTICAL SURVEY OF INTERLIBRARY LOAN ACTIVITY

A comprehensive statistical survey of the interlibrary loan service, undertaken by NLM's Circulation Division, is now well advanced. Encompassing interlibrary loan requests for serials which were filled in the form of photocopy during 1959 (some 78,000 items are involved), the survey will contribute important data for improving the management of the interlibrary loan program. Tabulations cite the serials on which interlibrary loan service was provided, with indication of frequency of service on a title-by-title basis, the time period of the serial, and country and language of publication. The survey provides identification of library users of the loan service and their geographic location, and categorizes them by type. It is expected that the results in summary form will be published in 1961.

RETIREMENT OF MISS DUNCAN

Miss Carrie Duncan of NLM's Circulation Division retired on November 30, 1960, after more than 42 years of continuous employment in the federal government. She came to the Library in 1921 to join a staff of 27 persons under Major General Robert E. Noble as director. She is well known to the Library's patrons, having been connected with public service during most of her career in the Library.

IN PRESS

Russian Drug Index. Compiled by Stanley Jablonski, with revisions by Robert M. Leonard and an introduction by Chauncey D. Leake. [Due February 1961]

This index lists drugs developed during the period 1950-60 in the Soviet Union, as well as drugs developed elsewhere but carrying new Russian designations. Its 650 entries, arranged by subject, include transliteration of the drug name, synonyms, chemical formula, brief description of properties, the Russian bibliographic source, and an American bibliographic source if one was available. An alphabetical index of drug names is appended.

Bulletin of the Medical Library Association, vol. 49, no. 1, pt. 2. 1961. [Due January 1961]

This special supplement to the Bulletin is an account of the "National Library of Medicine Index Mechanization Project," begun in July 1958 under a grant from the Council on Library Resources, Inc. The new system of composition used in the production of the Index Medicus since January 1960 is described in this report. Extra copies will be available from NLM.

Cumulated Index Medicus

As announced earlier, the American Medical Association will publish annual cumulations of material printed in the monthly issues of Index Medicus (125,000 articles in 1960). The first cumulation will be in three volumes of approximately 4,200 pages. Inquiries regarding publication date, price, and distribution should be directed to the American Medical Association, 535 North Dearborn Street, Chicago 10, Illinois.

Use of funds for printing this publication approved by the Director of the Bureau of the Budget, February 26, 1960

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